

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (**original**): A potassium salt or a sodium salt of (-)-2-{[2-(4-hydroxyphenyl)ethyl]thio}-3-[4-(2-{4-[(methylsulfonyl)oxy]phenoxy}ethyl)phenyl]-propanoic acid.

Claim 2 (**currently amended**): The A-salt according to claim 1 which is a potassium salt.

Claim 3 (**currently amended**): The A-salt according to claim 1 which is a sodium salt.

Claim 4 (**currently amended**): The A-salt according to claim 1 as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3 which may be which is in the form of a solvate, a hydrate, a mixed solvate/hydrate, an ansolvate or an anhydrate.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**): The A-salt according to claim 1 as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4 which is in crystalline or- partially crystalline form.

Claim 6 (**currently amended**): A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 in admixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable adjuvants, diluents and/or carriers.

Claim 7 (**withdrawn**): A method of treating or preventing lipid disorders (dyslipidemia) whether or not associated with insulin resistance comprising the administration of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 to a mammal in need thereof.

Claim 8 (**cancelled**).

Claim 9 (**withdrawn**): A method of treating or preventing type 2 diabetes comprising the administration of an effective amount of a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 to a mammal in need thereof.

Claim 10 (**currently amended**): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of claims 1 to 5 combined with another therapeutic agent that is useful in the treatment of disorders associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis such as hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.

Claim 11 (**new**): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 10 wherein said therapeutic agent is useful in the treatment of a disorder associated with the development and progress of atherosclerosis selected from hypertension, hyperlipidaemias, dyslipidaemias, diabetes and obesity.